

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MAINTAINING SECURITY**  
**IN A DISTRIBUTED COMPUTER NETWORK**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

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A system and method for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment comprises a policy manager located on a server for managing and distributing a security policy, and an application guard located on a client for managing access to securable components as specified by the security policy. In the preferred embodiment, a global policy specifies access privileges of the user to securable components. The policy manager may then preferably distribute a local client policy based on the global policy to the client. An application guard located on the client then manages access to the securable components as specified by the local policy.